

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to Patrick G. Burns in an interview on May 8, 2008. Applicants' previous arguments, and the present rejections, were discussed, without reaching agreement. However, the examiners made suggestions as to how claim 1 might be amended to avoid the cited references, and those suggestions have been adopted.

The examiners also suggested that independent claim 6 be amended, without specific suggestions. After further review, claim 6 has also been amended by incorporating the features of claims 7 and 10. Independent claim 12 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1, and independent claim 17 has been amended in a manner similar claim 6.

Independent claims 1 and 12 now recite that the annular body pieces have opposing leg portions, and that the opposing leg portions alternately protrude outwardly and inwardly of the respective annular body pieces. This amendment is supported by Figs. 2A and 2B, and paragraphs [0023] and [0025] of the specification. This configuration of annular body pieces is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.


Claims 6 and 17 now recite that the total opening area in the first regions is 5% to 10% greater than the total opening area in the openings in the second regions, and that the first and second region openings have a length in the range of 3 mm to 6 mm. These amendments are supported by cancelled claims 7 and 19, and paragraphs [0045] - [0048]. Flament merely discloses an internal resonator neck diameter of 6 mm, but does not disclose or suggest the combination of features of claims 6 and 21. The other cited references also do

not disclose or suggest the unique combination of features in claims 6 and 21. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is also requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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